

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE IN
3 COOPERATION WITH LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES AND PROVIDERS
4 OF SUPPORT AND SERVICES TO THE HOMELESS, INCLUDING THE HUMAN
5 SERVICES DEPARTMENT, THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT,
6 THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION, THE LABOR DEPARTMENT,
7 THE NEW MEXICO VETERANS' SERVICE COMMISSION, THE CORRECTIONS
8 DEPARTMENT, THE
9 NEW MEXICO HEALTH POLICY COMMISSION AND THE NEW MEXICO MORTGAGE
10 FINANCE AUTHORITY, TO ADDRESS THE CHRONIC PROBLEM OF HOMELESSNESS
11 AND TO BETTER PROVIDE ACCESS TO MAINSTREAM SERVICES TO THE
12 HOMELESS IN NEW MEXICO.

12 WHEREAS, approximately thirteen thousand people in
13 New Mexico, including veterans, families with children and persons with disabilities, are
14 homeless at any given date and time; and

15 WHEREAS, it has been found that people who are chronically homeless most
16 often suffer serious mental health and substance use disorders, also called co-
17 occurring disorders; and

18 WHEREAS, it has been found that without proper treatment and support, the
19 chronically homeless are high users of jail, emergency room and other hospital
20 services, causing an undue financial burden of approximately forty thousand dollars
21 (\$40,000) per person each year to local community service systems, including local
22 governments; and

23 WHEREAS, the federal department of health and human services, in
24 conjunction with the veterans' administration and the department of housing and urban
25 development, has invited representatives from New Mexico's public and private sector
to participate in a national policy academy to address the problem of chronic
homelessness, to determine how to better provide access to mainstream services to

1 the homeless and to develop state action plans; and

2 WHEREAS, a state action plan to resolve chronic homelessness in New Mexico
3 must include economic development incentives, affordable housing and integrated
4 health and educational supports and services, including therapeutic daycare and
5 substance abuse and behavioral health treatment;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested to convene a
8 task force in cooperation with local, state and federal agencies and providers of
9 support and services to the homeless, including the human services department, the
10 children, youth and families department, the state department of public education, the
11 labor department, the New Mexico veterans' service commission, the corrections
12 department, the New Mexico health policy commission and the New Mexico mortgage
13 finance authority, to address the chronic problem of homelessness and to better
14 provide access to mainstream services to the homeless in New Mexico; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force develop a state action plan to
16 address chronic homelessness in
17 New Mexico and present its findings and recommendations to the governor and the
18 appropriate interim legislative committee before the second session of the forty-sixth
19 legislature; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the
21 secretary of health and to the human services department, the children, youth and
22 families department, the state department of public education, the labor department,
23 the New Mexico veterans' service commission, the corrections department, the New
24 Mexico health policy commission and the New Mexico mortgage finance authority.
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